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the recently discovered Foraminifera of the Laurentian gneiss."—*Anniversary Address of the President (Sir R. I. Murchison) of the Geological Society of London.* 1866.

THE Eozoön IN AUSTRIA.—"Prof. Hochstetter, after long and laborious search, has succeeded in finding, in the crystalline limestone of Krummau, in South-western Bohemia, agglomerations of calcareous spar and serpentine, which have been declared by Dr. Carpenter, to whom specimens had been sent for examination, to be undoubted remains of *Eozoön*. Professor Hochstetter thinks the lenticular nodules partly composed of calcareous spar and serpentine, so abundant in the vicinity of the graphitic beds of Schwarzenbach and Mugerau, to be possibly of organic origin. Prof. Gümbel has lately found the *Eozoön* in the crystalline limestones of Bavaria."—*Quarterly Journal of the Geological Society.* London. 1866.

The *Eozoön* is the earliest form of animal life known; it belongs to the lowest type of animals, the *Protozoa*, and has only been found in the oldest rocks on the globe: i. e., the Laurentian System, consisting mostly of gneiss, limestone and syenitic rocks. It was first discovered in Grenville, Canada, by the Canadian Geological Survey, and afterwards in Connemara, Ireland.

CORRESPONDENCE.

WASPS AS MARRIAGE-PRIESTS TO PLANTS.—"Among these Wasps (though technically not a wasp at all), is a fine, handsome insect which has greatly piqued my curiosity, because I have not been able to locate it, even as to its family. Can you inform me what it is? It is near the Sphegidae, or the Scoliidae of Westwood, but differs materially, I think, from both. I did not preserve any perfect specimen of the insect. Its striking peculiarities, in addition to its handsome appearance on the wing, or when settling on the flowers of the *Asclepias*, with its antennæ busily employed gently playing upon the outside of the flower, while the labium is as busy inside—are the elongated labium and the very singular appendages to the tarsus, a drawing of one of which, highly magnified, I enclose. I think from the appearance of the spines upon the tarsus, that nearly all of them have borne these appendages, which have been broken off of such as are now without them. The terminal lobe of the appendage is light green, while the enclosed granules (or cells) are



Pollen attached
to the spines
of a wasp's leg.

darker. Westwood (Classification of Insects, vol. ii., fig. 82, p. 197) figures from Savigny* a probably similar appendage to the maxillary palpus of one of the Larridæ, and surmises that it was the result of disease.

From the general appearance of these appendages, their existence on all of the tarsi, and on all of the insects of this species hitherto examined by me, I do not think they result from disease, but are characteristic of the insect."—*T. Chambers, Covington, Ky.*

The wasp is evidently allied to *Tachytes*, one of the Larridæ. We trust our correspondent will, during the coming season, secure specimens for accurate identification, and renew his observations on a point so interesting alike to the Entomologist and Botanist.

We sent Mr. Chamber's drawings to Mr. Horace Mann, of Cambridge, without stating that the insect had been seen on the *Asclepias*, who thus writes:

"I received your note, with the very interesting sketches in it, last evening. The masses which have attached themselves to the wasp's leg, are, as you suppose, pollen, that of some species of *Asclepias*, the Milkweed or Silkweed. By referring to Gray's Manual of Botany you will find the structure of the flowers described on p. 351, and by referring to his Systematic and Structural Botany you will see it figured on p. 459. I showed the drawings to Dr. Gray, who was very much delighted with them, and begs, as I do, that you will have a wood-cut made of the small one, to show what a quantity the wasp managed to pick up in his perigrinations. A cut reduced to half the size of the drawing would answer every purpose, and be very interesting and instructive to Botanists."

In our specimen of *Tachytes*, there are four pollen masses attached to the spines on two of the legs. They evidently adhered to the spine by the viscid base of the pollen mass. They agree well with the drawing of Mr. Chambers, of which we give a wood-cut reduced one-half.

In regard to works on the Hymenoptera, or bees, wasps, etc., of this country, you will find many species described in H. de Saussure's great work on the Vespidae (Monographie des Guepes Sociales, Paris et Genève, 1853-58, 3 vols., 8vo). You will also find the Catalogue of Hymenoptera in the British Museum, by Frederic Smith, London, 12mo., vols. 1-4, to be an indispensable work. Many are also described in the new edition of Say's "American Entomology" and his other works edited by Dr. LeConte and published by Ballière Brothers, New York. Other papers describing many of our most common forms, are scattered through the Proceedings of the Entomological

*On comparing Savigny's original plate, the rounded masses are evidently pollen, which led us to suppose those on this insect to be of the same nature. Afterwards we found precisely similar masses of *Asclepias* pollen on *Tachytes aurulentus* Fabr., in the Museum of the Essex Institute.—EDS.

Society of Philadelphia, the Proceedings of the Essex Institute, the Boston Journal of Natural History, and the Annals of the Lyceum of Natural History of New York.—EDS.

NATURAL HISTORY CALENDAR.

NEW ENGLAND REPTILES IN APRIL.—The month of gladsome sounds has come! The little “pee-weep-ing” Tree Toads, with their high-pitched whistling notes, will soon convince you of the fact, if you are so fortunate as to live without the city walls; for on the first balmy evening, when Nature seems to open her heart and voice, you will be strongly impelled to stroll beyond the limits of your recent walks, and be you ever so stoical, you cannot close your ear to the joyous sounds that will rise from every swamp, ditch, and pool.

Yes! the little Tree Toads have left their winter homes, and come forth to announce in joyful chorus that Spring is here; that the cold and dreary days are over, and to bid us welcome the bright and happy ones to come.

Let us accept the invitation and visit the spot where the little revelers of night invite us so cordially. With what joy do they seemingly anticipate our coming—what music to the sympathetic ear. Hark! ten thousand little throats are sounding their welcome. We are near them. Hush! all is still.—One timid, cautious note, *peep*, strikes our ears, and, regardless of prospective colds, we seat ourselves on the damp bank resolved to see the little musician; assuring the little pipers by our quiet and attentive attitude that we will listen to their song of joy and greeting. *Peep, peep*, comes from a spot not far away. Another *pee-e-p*, still nearer; then *pee-weep, pe-weep, pe-weep, pe-weep*, and the chorus is at its height. The thousand invisible musicians are satisfied that we love their sounds. Move not or all will be hushed; for these little minstrels are jealous of their right to a quiet audience, and to enjoy their music that right must be respected. Observe that miniature wave circling from that spear of grass quite near the bank; look closely there, and you will see a little pointed head rise cautiously above the water, and then,—*pee-weep*. Yes! there is one of the little fellows! and we return home gladdened by their music, and contented that we have discovered the character of these happy little choristers of spring, and have found them to be our little summer friends of the woods, instead of Turtles, as we have from our youth been told.

During the first week in this month, the Little Tree Toads (*Hyla*